

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 /066 W

----- 112491

R 130724Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7052

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JERUSALEM 0789

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, IS, JO

SUBJ: RECENT INCIDENT IN HARAM INVOLVING MUSLIM AND ISRAELI
YOUTH

REF: AMMAN 3085

1. CONGEN INQUIRY WITH WAQF DIRECTOR OF HARAM ES SHARIF HASSAN
TAHBOUB ELICITED FOLLOWING DETAILS CONCERNING INCIDENT MAY 8
IN HARAM. AT 4:45 P.M. LARGE GROUP OF ISRAELI YOUTH GATHERED
NEAR DUNG GATE INSIDE HARAM QUARTER AND BEGAN DANCING AND
SINGING. HARAM MUSLIM GUARDS ATTEMPTED TO STOP DEMONSTRATION
BUT WERE UNSUCCESSFUL. ARAB YOUTH JOINED GUARDS RESULTING IN
CLASH BETWEEN TWO GROUPS. NUMBER OF ISRAELI YOUTH WITH SPRAY
CANS DEFACED ROYAL JORDANIAN CREST OVER TOMB OF KING HUSSIEN'S
GREAT GRANDFATHER. POLICE ARRIVED AND ARRESTED 20 OF YOUTH
INVOLVED IN CLASH. PAINT WAS REMOVED FROM CREST BY ISRAELI
MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES.

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2. TAHBOUB INDICATED TWO SUBSEQUENT ATTEMPTS TO ENTER HARAM

THAT SAME EVENING WERE REPORTED BY HARAM GUARDS. NEITHER ATTEMPTED SUCCEEDED. ACCORDING TO TAHBOUB, MUSLIM COUNCIL IS PREPARING PROTEST STATEMENT TO BE CIRCULATED AMONG FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AND INTERNATIONAL BODIES. TAHBOUB STATED COUNCIL WILL NOT MAKE FORMAL COMPLAINT TO GOI AUTHORITIES BECAUSE OF LACK OF RESPONSE FROM AUTHORITIES CONCERNING SUCH INCIDENTS.

3. COMMENT: INCIDENT RECEIVED LITTLE ATTENTION IN LOCAL ARABIC AND HEBREW PRESS. AS EL QUDS EDITOR PUT IT "THEY GET MORE EXCITED IN AMMAN THAN WE DO HERE; WE ARE USED TO THESE PROBLEMS." FROM TAHBOUB'S ACCOUNT APPEARS ISRAELI GROUP DID NOT ACUTALLY GET TO EITHER OF MOSQUES, ONLY TO SHARIF HUSSEIN'S TOMB. IT APPEARS TO US THAT INCIDENT GREW OUT OF CELEBRATION BY ISRAELIS OF JERUSALEM REUNIFICATION DAY MAY 8 AND HAD LITTLE OR NOTHING TO DO WITH KING'S SPEECHES. DAY

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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